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SEATON VALLEY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1947.

SEATON VALLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor Mrs. C. Langman, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor J.J. Hardcastle.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN: Councillor Mrs. J. Sharp, J.P.

MEMBERS: The whole Council.

OFFICIALS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

William Cunningham, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs. Evelyn M. Hall, M.B., B.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

John W. Barker, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

John R. Day, M.S.I.A., M.R. San.I. to September  
James R. Wilson, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., from September.

Chief Clerk:

Mr. T.J. Elliott.

Council Offices,  
Seaton Delaval,  
Northumberland,  
4th October, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Seaton Valley Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1947.

The report has been prepared in an abridged form according to instructions from the Ministry of Health.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation.

~~1573~~ children up to 4 years of age and ~~112~~ between 5 and 14 years of age had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1947.

The estimated child population for mid-year 1947 was 2070 up to 4 years of age and 3750 between 5 and 14 years.

#### Infectious diseases.

I have to record a decrease in cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

#### Scarlet Fever.

26 cases were notified during the year as against 46 in 1946.

#### Diphtheria.

8 cases were notified during the year as against 28 in 1946. 1 death occurred.

#### Measles.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases notified. 146 cases were notified as against 138 in 1946.

#### Births.

The birth rate is lower than in 1946.

#### Deaths.

The death rate is slightly higher than in 1946.

#### Milk - Tuberculosis.

Thirteen samples of milk submitted for examination for presence of B. Tuberculosis were found to be negative.

#### Milk Supply.

There was an average maintenance of supplies of milk, but the keeping qualities showed some improvement.

Transport facilities may be improved in 1948 when milk should be fresher on delivery.

Details of analyses of samples will be found within the report.

Nutrition.

I have no evidence of malnutrition in the people due to present restrictions.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their sympathetic encouragement during a year of difficult conditions, and Mr. Barker and all the staff for their constant loyalty and hardwork.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. CUNNINGHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 12,459

Population: Registrar-General's Estimate of population mid-year 1947 was 26,022 (25,750)

Inhabited Houses: 7,570 approximately at March, 1947

Ratable Value - £105,795 at 1st April, 1948

(£103,545 at 1st April, 1947).

Sum represented by a penny rate - £390 (£386 in 1946)

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	230	218	448
Illegitimate	6	6	12
	<u>236</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>460</u> (495)

Distribution of births registered in Seaton Valley Urban Area shown in districts:

District	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Cramlington:	46	36	-	-	82
Seaton Delaval:	30	20	-	1	51
Seghill:	10	16	-	-	26
Earsdon:	59	44	2	-	105
	<u>145</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>264</u>

196 births (89 males and 107 females) were registered in other districts. Of these 4 males and 5 females were illegitimate.

Birth Rate.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimate resident population is 17.67 (19.14 in 1946).

Still Births.

14 (13 males and 1 female). (15 in 1946).

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births - 29.53  
(29.53 in 1946).

Deaths.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	153	139	297 (277 in 1946)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	10	10	20
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>21</u> (22)

Distribution of deaths in districts:-

District	Males	Females	Total
Cramlington:	55	47	102
Seaton Delaval:	34	33	67
Seghill:	16	11	27
Earsdon:	53	48	101
	158	139	297

Death Rate.

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimate resident population is 11.41 (10.76 in 1946).

Corrected Death Rate.

The preparation and issue of the Comparability Factor has been suspended under present conditions, and it is not possible therefore to give the corrected death rate for 1947.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. 29      Puerperal Sepsis      - 0 (0)

No. 50      Other maternal causes      - 5 (0)

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births      - 45.65 (44.32)

Legitimate infants per 1,000  
legitimate live births      - 44.64 (42.74)

Illegitimate infants per 1,000  
illegitimate live births      - 83.35 (80.00)

Deaths from Cancer      (all ages)      - 50 (42)

Deaths from Measles      (all ages)      - 1 (0)

Deaths from Whooping Cough      - 0 (0)

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of  
age)      - 1 (3)

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There were no changes in:

- (a) Laboratory facilities
- (b) Nursing in the Home
- (c) Treatment Centres and Clinics
- (d) Hospitals.

Laboratory facilities:

The following examinations were made in the County Laboratory at Newburn:

Examination Requested	Swabs	Positive	Negative
Diphtheria	75	4	71
B. Tuberculosis	156	25	131
Strept. Haemolyticus	70	34	36
Faeces (For Organisms)	6	3	3
	307	66	241

### Ambulance Services.

The ambulance services remain the same as in 1946. Private vehicles were available for residents who are not contributors to welfare or colliery ambulance schemes.

Seaton Valley U.D.C. paid 25% of the cost of all ambulance services.

### SECTION C.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### Water.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Tynemouth Corporation and the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and is distributed by the Council through the Council's network of mains. Extensions of the distribution mains have been made during the year to afford supplies to proposed new houses at Murton Grange Estate.

Complaints regarding the poor pressure of water at the Beacon Smallholdings, Craylington, should receive attention as soon as possible.

The water is controlled by bacteriological and chemical examination by the Tynemouth Corporation and the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company. The supply as received and distributed is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The following table shows the districts served by the two bulk water suppliers and the approximate number of houses and approximate population served by standpipes and with house services:

##### Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.

	EARSDON	SEGRILL
Houses supplied by standpipe	603	162
Population	2104	550
Houses with internal services	2574	512
Population	8609	1742

##### Tynemouth Corporation.

	CRAYLINGTON	SEATON DELAVAL
Houses supplied by standpipe	864	329
Population	3104	1122
Houses with internal services	1434	1092
Population	5009	3802

### Drainage and Sewerage.

(1) Sewage from the western part of Cramlington continues to be treated at the temporary works at Nelson Village, and the Council should not overlook the need for a more permanent arrangement as soon as conditions in general will allow.

(2) Sewers in Shankhouse and New Hartley have been affected by subsidence and may need attention at an early date.

(3) As a result of the imminent opening up of the land to the east of Earsdon in the search for coal a scheme of sewer diversion is being contemplated.

### Rivers and Streams.

Rivers and streams	)	
Closet Accommodation	)	These items are dealt
Public Cleansing	)	with in the Chief Sanitary
Sanitary Inspection of the District	)	Inspector's report.
Shops and Offices	)	
Camping Sites	)	
Swimming Baths and Pools	)	
Eradication of Bed Bugs	)	

### Schools.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of all schools in the area have been satisfactory.

### SECTION D AND E.

relating to Housing and inspection and supervision of Food are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

### SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

#### Scarlet Fever.

26 (45) cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. 24 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. 2 cases were isolated at home.

Distribution in the districts was:-

Cramlington:	8 (29) cases
Seaton Delaval:	11 (10) "
Seghill:	0 (0) "
Earsdon:	7 (6) "
	<u>26 (45) "</u>

Incidence of Scarlet Fever per 1,000 of the population was 0.99 (1.74).

#### Diphtheria.

8 (28 cases) of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

All were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

There was 1 (0) death.

Distribution in the districts was:-

Cramlington:	2 (21)
Seaton Delaval:	5 (4)
Seghill:	0 (0)
Earsdon:	3 (3)
	<u>8 (28)</u>

Incidence of Diphtheria per 1,000 of the population was 0.30 (1.08).

75 throat swabs were submitted to the Laboratory during the year, and 4 proved positive for Diphtheria.

3 cases had been immunised.

( 4 years ago - 2); (2 years ago - 1); (1 year ago - 0).

506 children up to 14 years of age have completed a full course of immunisation during the year, and 972 have received a reinforcing dose.

Incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria for the year, separated into districts and houses of the following classes:- Clearance Area Houses; Council Houses; Private Dwelling Houses.

District	Scarlet Fever			Diphtheria		
	C.A.	C.H.	P.D.H.	C.A.	C.H.	P.D.H.
Cramlington:	3(4)	0(9)	5(16)	0(1)	0(5)	2(15)
Seaton Delaval:	0(0)	0(2)	12(8)	0(0)	5(1)	0(3)
Seghill:	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Earsdon:	0(0)	1(2)	5(4)	0(0)	2(2)	1(1)
	3(4)	1(13)	22(28)	0(1)	5(8)	5(19)

### Pneumonia.

8 (6) cases of Pneumonia were notified.

Deaths - 10 (7).

Incidence rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.30 (0.23).

It is evident here that some cases of Pneumonia have not been notified.

### Erysipelas.

3 (2) cases of Erysipelas were notified.

2 cases were treated at home and 1 case removed to hospital.

### Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during 1946.

Case	Cases Notified	Cases		Total Deaths
		Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	
Smallpox	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Scarlet Fever	26(45)	24(40)	0(0)	0(0)
Diphtheria	8(28)	8(28)	1(0)	1(0)
Enteric Fever	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1(1)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Pneumonia	8(6)	2(0)	10(7)	10(7)
Erysipelas	3(2)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Dysentery	1(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Whooping Cough	33(12)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Measles	146(158)	0(0)	1(0)	1(0)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2(3)	1(2)	1(0)	1(0)
Para Typhoid	1(0)	1(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Poliomyelitis	3(0)	2(0)	0(0)	0(0)

Analysis of Total Notified Cases under Age Groups

Diseases	Age Un- known	Under 1	1- 5	2- 5	3- 10	4- 15	5- 20	10- 35	15- 45	20- 65	& Over
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	3	5	6	8	1	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	1	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	5	2	4	3	2	4	3	-	-	-
Measles	-	5	17	19	32	15	29	29	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Para Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-

Prevention of Blindness.

1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 151 (140) cases on the register, 108 Pulmonary and 43 Non-Pulmonary.

18 new cases, 14 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary were reported during the year.

There were 9 (8) deaths, 7 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary.

153 (143) cases, 110 Pulmonary and 43 Non-Pulmonary were on the register at the end of the year.

3 cases, all Pulmonary, were transferred to other districts.

4 cases, 2 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary, were removed from the register as having recovered.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	3	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
35-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	2
45-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
55-	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	7	3	1	6	1	2	-

Distribution of Deaths in Districts

District	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Cramlington:	2	1	-	-	3
Seaton Delaval:	2	-	1	-	3
Seghill:	-	-	-	-	0
Earsdon:	2	-	1	-	3
	6	1	2	-	9

Death rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) was 58.22 (57.14) per 1,000 cases.

Death rate per 1,000 population was 0.34 (0.31).

Notification of Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary to enforce notification.

Tuberculosis in Milk.

13 samples of milk exposed for sale in the district were examined for B.Tuberculosis, 13 samples proved negative.

Scabies Order 1941.

Cases notified	-	8
Cases reported cured	-	NIL

Coal Dust from Maude & Eccles Pits, Backworth.

The improvement is still being maintained.

Venereal Diseases.

Propaganda has been conducted on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health and Central Council for Health Education.

No case had applied to the department for advice.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B's & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County
<b>x Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-</b>				
<b>Births</b>				
Live Births	20.5 ✓	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still Births	0.50 ✓	0.62	0.54	0.49
<b>Deaths</b>				
All Causes	12.0 ✓	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
<b>Notifications</b>				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.51
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64
<b>x A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths</b>				
<b>✓ Rates per 1,000 total population</b>				

	England and Wales	126 C.B's & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County
<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-</b>				
<b>Deaths</b>				
All causes under 1 year of age	41 ✓	47	36	37
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8
<b>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:-</b>				
<b>Notifications</b>				
Puerperal fever )	7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21
Puerperal pyrexia )				6.94xx

Maternal Mortality in ENGLAND AND WALES

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with sepsis	0.10	9
141 Abortion without sepsis	0.06	5
147 Puerperal infections	0.16	
142-146 Other maternal causes	0.85	
148-150		

✓ Per 1,000 related births

xx Including Puerperal fever

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEATON VALLEY.

Annual report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector  
Year ended 31st December, 1947.

To the Chairman & Members of the  
Urban District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in placing before you my third annual report, in which is given a brief review of the work of the department and the sanitary conditions obtaining in your district during the year 1947.

Housing.

The housing situation in your area is indicated by the figures of occupied houses given in the following tables:

Included in (3)					
(1) Council Houses	(2) Privately Owned Houses	(3) Condemned Houses	(4) Requisitioned Houses	(5) Licensod Housos	(6) Total
2267	4611	723	41	154	7601

Council Houses.

Investigations of complaints of uncleanliness, overcrowding, etc., in Council houses, are made as and when requested by the four Area House Letting Sub-committees and in addition 129 inspections were made of premises occupied by tenants proposed for new Council houses. This is in accordance with a Resolution of the Council which states that all housing accommodation of prospective tenants of Council owned houses should be inspected by the Health Department and a report presented to the respective area house letting Sub-committees before allocation is made. It will, however, be seen that this Resolution is not being implemented in full as some 250 houses were erected and let by the respective Committees.

It is essential that this Resolution be fully implemented, in order that unsatisfactory tenants could be eliminated or noted for future reference should they be allocated premises and in the event of furniture etc., being infested with vermin the necessary precautions could be taken before the tenants are removed, and such tenants placed upon a list for periodic investigation. Of course, the most satisfactory way of dealing with such tenants is to remove their household chattels in bulk in a pantechicon fitted with fumigation apparatus so that the furniture etc., could be treated during the journey from one house to another, which would ensure vermin free entry into the new housing accommodation.

During the progress of the Council's post-war Housing Programme and Letting Scheme the Health Department has been requested to investigate the conditions of some of the new houses after only a few months' tenancy.

### Condemned Houses.

The majority of these houses are now owned by the National Coal Board and are being maintained in a fairly reasonable condition taking into account the fact that the majority are about 100 years old and built of porous stone work.

Of the total of 723 condemned houses, 154 have, at one time or another, prior to 31st December, 1947, become vacant and upon application by the owners licences have been granted for successive six monthly periods under the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939 Regulation No. 68AA. Thirty licences were granted in 1947 under this Regulation. All of these houses have been repaired in accordance with schedules prepared after inspection. This necessitates at least two inspections per house per year.

The remaining houses in Farm Road, Cramlington, Boundary Road, Shankhouse, Office Road, East Cramlington, Whitley Row, Shiremoor and Burn and Double Rows, East Hollywell, are in very poor condition particularly regarding defective roofs and it is my opinion that the tenants of these properties should be rehoused without further delay as a heavy shower is a dread to the occupants requiring all their efforts to catch water in pails, baths, etc.

In the 723 condemned houses are also included 41 requisitioned houses, a decrease of four below the previous year. The tenants of those four were rehoused by the Council. Although these houses provide accommodation for people who might otherwise be homeless or living as sub-tenants in unsatisfactory and overcrowded conditions, they are a constant source of worry to the Health Department due to the fact that complaints are constantly being received direct and per the rent collectors and great difficulty has been experienced from time to time in finding replacement parts for defective kitchen ranges and even in obtaining contractors to carry out the necessary works, often at considerable expense, which, in my opinion, could be better expended on the erection of new properties, including labour and materials to be allocated to such work.

A great deal of the time of the staff of the Health Department is taken up by unfortunate people living in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions visiting the Department seeking advice and help with a view to obtaining, in the first place, a much coveted Council house, or alternatively, some other accommodation which will relieve them of the tension of residing with parents. These inquiries have, in some instances been dealt with by inspection of the accommodation complained of.

A good deal has been said about the sale of vacant houses which have an increased value and a considerable number of these sales have taken place in this district and in localities where a poor type of tenant is normally residing and with this inter mixing of owner-occupiers with tenants paying rent I feel that an improvement will be evident in these localities, both in regard to the maintenance of the properties and the general appearance of the exterior of the backstreets, etc.

Of the 4,611 privately owned houses the following 643 houses will probably be scheduled for demolition as soon as houses have been provided in lieu of those already scheduled.

No. of Houses	Total
------------------	-------

### SEATON DELAVAL

1 - 107 Foreman's Row	106	
1 - 31 Double Row	31	
Wheatridge Farm Cottages	7	
Carried forward	144	144

		No. of Houses	Total
	Brought forward		144
	<u>HOLYWELL</u>		
1 -	30 Church Row	30	
1 -	46 Middle Row	46	
1 -	48 Double Row	48	
	Dodd's Buildings	7	275
		151	
	<u>NEW HARTLEY</u>		
1 -	104 Melton Terrace	104	379
	<u>EAST HOLYWELL</u>		
1 -	12 Office Road	12	
1 -	35 North Road	35	
		47	426
	<u>SHIREMOOR</u>		
1 -	28 Percy Street	28	
1 -	28 Duke Street	28	
1 -	28 Duchess Street	22	
1 -	16 Louisa Street	16	
		94	520
	<u>EAST CRAMLINGTON</u>		
1 -	25 Single Junction	25	
1 -	25 Double Junction	25	
		50	570
	<u>BACKWORTH</u>		
	Bank Foot Cottage	1	571
	<u>CRAMLINGTON</u>		
10 -	50 Sanderson's Terrace	41	
1 -	21 Collingwood Terrace	21	
		62	633
	<u>HARSDON</u>		
	Front Street East	2	635
	<u>WEST CRAMLINGTON</u>		
1 -	8 Blue Bell Road	8	643
	The following is the information required under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1935 - 1938:		
1.	No. of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation		166
2.	No. of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers		166
3.	No. of representations made to the local authority with a view to: (a) the serving of notices requiring execution of works. (b) the making of demolition or closing orders		27 Nil

4. No. of notices served requiring execution of works	27
5. No. of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	3
6. No. of demolition or closing orders made	NIL
7. No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 11(5) Housing Act 1936	NIL
8. No. of houses demolished	7
9. Total number of houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	355
10. Total number of inspections made in respect of the above houses	1465

#### Drainage Works, Sewerage & Sanitary Alterations.

Three separate privy conversions were carried out and in each case on half of the contractor's estimate was paid to the owners by the Council.

There remain within the district approximately 288 privy boxes and 38 privies in connection with 27 ash pits and 14 pail closets, the majority of which are used connected to the Council's sewers and water mains with the result that conversion to water closets should be put in hand without further delay. *in connection with premises which are*

In addition to the above mentioned there remain 23 privy boxes, 143 privies and 73 ash pits in use with houses scheduled for clearance and demolition. There are also 138 pail closets, 62 privy boxes, 60 privies and 32 ash pits in connection with houses which may be scheduled for clearance etc., in a few years time.

The above figures give the following totals:

372 privy boxes	241 privies and 109 ash pits
152 pail closets	

The following drainage works were carried out during the year:

8 yds. old drain removed	8 defective waterclosets removed
55 yds. New 6" drain installed	17 new waterclosets provided
374 yds. new 4" drain installed	20 new sinks installed
2 defective gullies removed	17 new inspection chambers erected
34 new trapped gullies provided	9 new baths installed
3 privies removed	12 new lavatory basins installed.
7 ash pits removed	

#### Streams and Watercourses.

I am happy to record that as a result of much pressure by the Health Department the National Coal Board, successors to the Backworth Collieries Ltd., arranged to clear washery workings from the pond with the result that the effluent discharging into the Brier Done stream is now clear and should remain in this condition for about three years when the pond will require cleansing. The deposit, I understand, is saleable, and as the barium sulphate effluent was removed in 1946 the stream is now in very good condition, much to the delight of residents in the Whitley Bay Urban District through which the stream flows and discharges into the sea. I trust that the National Coal Board might be persuaded to install a flocculation plant at the Maude and Eccles Collieries so that there will be no need to discharge effluent into the stream.

I am still concerned about the condition of the Seaton Burn which remains almost jet black for seven days per week, from the point where it passes the Seghill Colliery of the National Coal Board. It is further polluted at Mires Close, Seghill, by colliery washery effluent from a contributory watercourse flowing from East Cramlington which takes the overflow from inadequate settling ponds at the Lamb Pit. The Burn is further polluted by effluent from another contributory watercourse flowing from East Holywell where there is a direct flow from the coal washing plant.

I have been in close touch with officials of the National Coal Board and plans are in course of preparation to install a flocculation plant at Seghill Colliery, and as a temporary measure to install additional settling ponds at the Larib Pit. These arrangements should be in operation within the next two or three years and as the flocculation plant at East Holywell is nearing completion whereby the washery water remains in circulation and none is discharged into a watercourse, I anticipate that the Seaton Burn should be free from pollution within the next two or three years.

#### Atmospheric Pollution.

It is pleasing to record that all the local collieries now use electricity for haulage purposes with the result that atmospheric pollution from colliery chimneys does not now take place. The chief offence is from colliery spoil banks but much work and many visits were carried out during the year in an endeavour to get the officials concerned to use water on the affected banks and good results were obtained. In one instance the fires became so intense and widespread and were being fed by further tipping that at the December meeting of the Council it was unanimously agreed to request the Ministry of Health under the Public Health (Coal Mine Refuse) Act 1939 to sanction the serving of a notice under Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936 upon the National Coal Board.

There is little pollution of the atmosphere, if any, from any other source, but by far the greatest factor of pollution comes from the domestic chimneys and in damp weather this can be observed in any of the populated areas within the district, but this will be eased somewhat by the fact that most of the new houses in course of erection have only one fireplace, all cooking etc., being carried out by the aid of gas or electricity. One of the biggest culprits at the moment appears to be the single storey prefabricated houses where coal is used and due to the low chimneys dense smoke circulates over the area. The fireplaces provided in these houses should be supplied with smokeless fuel and not coal.

As the rehousing programme proceeds most of the very old fashioned fireplaces, whereon one or more pails of coal can be placed, will disappear and I trust that as the large type kitchen range installed in the older Council houses become defective they will be replaced by modern firegrates with a smaller grate area and capacity which should materially reduce the atmospheric pollution in the district.

#### Public Conveniences.

Such premises are situated in Earsdon, Shiremoor, Backworth (incorporating a well built shelter for bus passengers), Seaton Delaval (Avenue Head and adjoining Railway Station) and at Newtown, Cranlington; there was cause to complain about the condition of the Earsdon and Shiremoor premises during the year, apparently some members of the public do not appreciate the services provided for their benefit and any offender caught fouling or damaging the premises should be dealt with accordingly. The conveniences are cleansed daily by retired workmen at a small weekly fee, but it is my opinion that the job is one which should be performed by younger men or one man to be engaged on this work, together with other suitable work to give full employment. The cleansing and supervision work is not under the control of the Health Department.

There is need, so soon as ~~utensils~~ etc., are available for similar conveniences in Cranlington Village, Nelson Village, Seghill, and probably one or two other points where shelters for bus passengers should be incorporated.

<u>Inspection Work.</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>
Number for all purposes	2801	(5919)
Informal notices served during the year	320	(376)
Complied with	306	(388)

217 carried forward to 1948.

Statutory notices served during year	33	(17)
Statutory notices complied with during year	3	(17)

#### Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Two men are trained to carry out this work, the former work is carried out to premises after cases of scarlet fever have been removed to hospital or after completion of home nursing. All advice and help is given re disinfection for vermin and in serious cases the work is performed by your own employees.

With reference to infectious diseases 44 visits were made with the result that 12 library books were destroyed and the various owners compensated amounting to £2. 6. 11.

#### Water Supply.

All premises within the district have mains water but a large percentage have not got internal supplies having to rely upon yard standpipes or street standpipes, the latter often serving six or eight houses. Much waste of water occurs in frosty weather due to bursts and by tenants who fail to turn off the tap, internal supplies would save much water and cost to ratepayers.

See Medical Officer of Health's report for precise details and mode of supply.

#### Milk Supplies.

There were on the register at the end of the year:-

20 Milk producers, including 5 Accredited and 2 Tuberculin Tested

21 Milk Retailers.

Inspections were made as follows:-

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>
Cowsheds	-	53 (33)
Dairies	-	59 (121)

The bulk of milk sold within the district is pasteurised as is all milk supplied to school children. Five producers of ordinary, four producers of accredited and one tuberculin tested milk producer sell within the district; Four producers of ordinary and one producer of accredited and two tuberculin tested producers deliver milk outside the area whilst four producers of ordinary milk and one producer of accredited milk send their milk to pasteurisation depots at Blyth and Stocksfield.

The following licences for sale of milk were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936:-

Tuberculin Tested	-	NIL
Accredited	-	NIL
Pasteurised	-	5

57 milk samples were taken during the year and submitted to the County Laboratory at Newburn and the following results obtained:

Designation	No.	Methylene Blue Test Result	Tubercle bacilli present
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ordinary	58	23	15
Accredited	10	10	-
Pasteurised	5	5	-
Tuberculin Tested	4	4	-
	57	42	15

The above figures show that 75% of the samples taken proved to be satisfactory and whilst it is not a very high percentage it is not unreasonably low and I hope that with the amount of time spent, advice and instruction given to producers and dairy staffs the percentage will get higher in the future.

#### Meat and Other Foods.

The Ministry of Food have not a slaughtering establishment within the district with the result that all home killed meat has to be brought by road from premises in Newcastle upon Tyne whilst dealing with slaughterhouses I feel the time has arrived when the Council should give consideration to the question of whether or not an approach should be made to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Food as to whether or not the time is opportune for the consideration of the erection of a public slaughterhouse to serve the district. All carcasses including imported are delivered to and distributed from the Seaton Valley Retail Butchers' Association's Depot at Seaton Delaval; on the whole the quality is good but some meat was eventually condemned as unfit for human consumption due to bone taint, this was no doubt brought about by handling and transport to Seaton Delaval before complete setting had taken place. The transfer and handling of meat between Newcastle and Seaton Delaval and to butchers' shops has improved slightly over the last few years but the time has arrived when special meat conveying vans, properly ventilated, and with hanging accommodation for carcasses should be provided and so obviate the present system of carcass stacking and packing on old foul meat wrappers, with livers and plucks intermingled; the inside of such vehicles never look very clean whereas they should possess a meat shop window appearance.

40 inspections of retail butchers' shops were made with the result that the following meats were condemned:

68 lbs. Mutton	502 lbs. Hind Quarter Beef (Imported)
171 " Lamb	632 " " " "
128½ " Liver	2084 " Fore " "

The carcasses of 185 pigs killed by allotment holders, cottagers and farmers were all found to be fit for human consumption.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 twenty licences granted to slaughtermen were on the register at the end of the year.

133 inspections were made of retail food shops and all found to be maintained in a very satisfactory condition. The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption due to various defects including nail punctures, blown tins or general decomposition:-

39 tins	Stewed Steak	2 tins	Apricots
7 "	Luncheon Meat	160 pkts	Cereals
294 "	Evaporated Milk	17 lbs.	Biscuits
8 "	Condensed Milk	60 "	Sultanas
24 "	Beans	2 "	Semolina
25 "	Poos	1 pkt.	Jelly
17 "	M. & V. Rations	21 lbs.	Self-Raising Flour
20 "	Sugar	2 tins	Boneless Chicken
6 "	Pilchards	5 "	Potted Meat
1 tin	Sardines	1 tin	Macaroni
15 tins	Pears	1 "	Beetroot
21 "	Tomatoes	14½ lbs.	Prunes
21 lbs.	Cheese	10 "	Sausage
129½ "	Butter	5 tins	Marmalade
3 tins	Crawfish	2 "	Veal Loaf
12 "	Chopped Ham	17 "	Soup
15 "	Pork Sausage Meat	10 lbs.	Sweets
6 "	Minced Beef Loaf	7 tins	336 lbs. Potatoes
4 "	Vienna Sausage	95 tins	Corned Beef
16 jars	Jam	3 "	Fruit Salad
4 "	Pickles	4 "	Carrots and Peas
1 tin	Plums	110 pkts.	Custard Pudding Mixturo
6 tins	Household Milk	4 lbs.	Roast Mutton
7 "	Syrup	152½ "	Bacon & Gammon
29 "	Dried Egg	1 tin	Tongue
5 "	Peaches	9 jars	Pickled Cabbage & Onions
151 lbs.	Sugar	43 lbs.	Mincemeat
51½ "	Tea	45 "	Black Pudding
3 tins	Steak & Kidney Pudding	50 tins	Spinach
1 tin	Orange Juice	65 lbs.	Ham

#### Shops Acts.

Inspections were made of general retail shops with reference to heating, lighting, ventilation, sanitary accommodation and cleanliness, all premises were found to be maintained in a reasonable condition and no action found necessary.

#### Food Preparing Premises.

There are sixteen fried fish and chip preparing premises within the district which open fairly regularly, the majority of the premises are not entirely satisfactory particularly the preparing premises usually at the rear of the shop and so soon as labour and materials are available many will have to be altered to comply with Section 13 Food and Drugs Act 1938. The preparing premises of one shop were completely reconstructed and retrained in September.

There are five bakeries within the district, three of which are operated by owner/occupiers and will have to be reconditioned in the near future to comply with the above mentioned Act. One was entirely rebuilt during the year.

There are twentytwo premises wherein sausage, meat sundries, etc., are prepared, all of which are maintained in a reasonable condition but here again reconstruction will have to be carried out in the near future to comply with the above mentioned Act.

All the above premises are registered under Section 14 Food & Drugs Act 1938.

One large firm with three of these premises propose to establish one central food preparing depot at the Hostel Site, Cramlington. The premises were the Central Kitchen for the site as occupied by the Civil Defence (Mobile Rescue Squad) in the latter part of the war period, but at the end of the year the firm were unable to alter the premises in order to fully comply with the requirements of Section 13 Food & Drugs Act 1938 due to the refusal of the Ministries of Food and Works to respectively sanction and allow a licence for the work to be carried out. This withholding of licences for such

necessary work is unreasonable and it might be suggested that where officials of the Health Department require necessary works and alterations to premises to comply with an Act administered by the Ministry of Health, that Ministry should be the deciding arbitrator in the matter.

There are three premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and two for the sale only of ice cream.

#### Factories Act 1937.

28 visits were made to factories using mechanical power and all found to comply with the provisions of the Act as administered by a District Council.

#### Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium.

The following licences were in force during the year:-

16 to store Petroleum Mixture

14 to store Carbide of Calcium - 1 of which is for gas generating purposes

All premises are kept in good order and regulation notices exhibited for guidance of staffs.

#### Elementary Schools.

There are twentytwo schools within the district all of which are provided with waterclosets connected to the Council's sewers and washing facilities for the staff and pupils.

All the schools are now supplied with hot midday meals, five from self contained kitchens within the school premises. These premises are fairly modern and can be kept in good condition. Fourteen schools are supplied by food in containers by road transport from three central kitchens, one of which is a newly erected building. The other two kitchens have been constructed in old school buildings where much food has been damaged by rats and mice and much time has been spent in eradicating the pests and locating possible points of entry. Old buildings should not be converted for this purpose unless first proofed against rats and mice.

#### Billeting.

One evacuee from the London area was on the register at the end of the year.

#### Public Baths and Pools.

#### Camping Sites.

None within the Urban District.

#### Cinemas.

There are five such places within the district each supplied with adequate sanitary accommodation and suitably ventilated.

#### Licensed Premises.

There are twentyfive public houses within the district and twelve working men's clubs all of which are supplied with sanitary accommodation but only a few are equipped with hot water for the washing of glasses. Whilst no outbreaks of intestinal disorder have taken place to warrant investigation by the department I am convinced that such does take place on a small scale and it is hoped that so soon as materials and labour become easier the owners will, upon request, install the necessary hot water equipment without resort to legal action.

Whilst dealing with licensed premises I think the Justices should request a certificate from the local health authority that the premises are in all respects suitable. A similar certificate should be required when a licence is renewed under the Cinematograph Act 1909.

#### Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Advice was sought on many occasions by householders and business people on how to clear premises of an odd number of rats and mice; in most cases the premises were cleared fairly easily by poisoning, the work being done by the occupiers with materials sold to them or by our own operators (4 trained on staff) and the cost recovered.

#### Public Cleansing.

The collection of household refuse is efficiently carried out by four motor vehicles each manned by a driver and 3, 4 and 5 men according to men available or season; there was also in use one horse and cart used chiefly on some 300 privies, the cart is manned by one man only, who also acts as housekeeper.

One spare motor vehicle is maintained and used to augment winter collections and in case of breakdown or maintenance work on other vehicles. Difficulty was experienced during the year to obtain spare parts to keep the vehicles on the road. The greatest trouble was with the two old type Thornycroft vehicles which are 15 and 14 years old respectively and deemed to be obsolete by the makers. Orders were placed with Messrs. Dennis Bros., Guildford, in February and April, 1947, for two 12/15 cubic yard dustless loading refuse collection vehicles at £1,025 each, delivery to be given in 35/40 weeks. Whether or not these vehicles will come to hand after that period remains to be seen in view of the export drive promoted by the Board of Trade.

The remainder of the fleet of vehicles comprises the following:

1 Thornycroft Handy	-	11 years old
1 Scammell Articulated	-	6 " "
1 Dennis	-	6 " " , this vehicle

is used for the cleaning of 152 public closets remaining in the District.

At the end of the year the outdoor staff consisted of one foreman, five full-time motor drivers, sixteen bin-lifters (one used as a spare driver), one cartman, two tipmen and one salvage sorter - twenty-six total.

During the year 30 men left - 2 due to retirement at the age of 65 years and the remainder due to the temporary nature of their employment. 32 men were engaged. These are fairly large numbers but many of these changes were due to clearance of refuse following the snow storms in the early part of the year. The table below shows the number of days lost during the year. This figure of 365 is equal to a man's work for 1.5 years.

Month	Working Days	Total man working days	Days lost
January	25	650	53
February	22	638	55
March	23½	828½	72
April	22	840	29
May	23½	834	22
June	22	550	15
July	25	625	67
August	21½	537	17
September	24	568½	8
October	25	650	14
November	23½	585	37
December	22½	530½	16
Totals	279½	7630½	385